

CLAIMS

1. A system for enabling video content to be selected by a user via the Internet (140) and for distributing selected video content via a multichannel video broadcasting system, for the selected video content to be received on a multichannel receiver and displayed at the user's location on a TV monitor (150) or on a PC (160) provided with a TV display card, the system comprising:
- a main video server (200) storing a plurality of selectable video contents (210,220,230);
 - an authorization server (300) accessible via the Internet for a user to transmit user commands to select video contents that are to be displayed immediately or with a delay;
 - a multichannel video broadcasting apparatus (250;280,285); and
 - a distribution server (350) for supplying, from the main video server (200) to the broadcasting apparatus (250;280,285), selected video contents to be broadcast on channels of the broadcasting apparatus;
 - the system being arranged to provide an indication of a channel that is available to broadcast a selected video content immediately or with a delay in correspondence with a user command, said indication being available to the user via the authorization server (300) and the Internet (140); and
 - the system being arranged to initiate the broadcast of a selected video content on the indicated available channel immediately or with a delay in correspondence with said user command.
2. The system of claim 1, wherein the main video server (200) stores live broadcasts (210), recorded videos (220) and video-on-demand (230).
3. The system of claim 1 or 2, wherein the multichannel video broadcasting apparatus (250 ;280,285) is a digital broadcasting apparatus having a broad bandwidth with several hundreds of channels.
4. The system of claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the multichannel video broadcasting apparatus comprises a cable TV network (250).

5. The system of claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein the multichannel video broadcasting apparatus comprises a ground transmission station (280) arranged to transmit to a communications satellite (285).
- 5 6. The system of any preceding claim, wherein the distribution server (350) is arranged to provide automated selection of a channel available to broadcast immediately or with a delay in correspondence with a user command, or a partly automated selection assisted by a user command.
- 10 7. The system of any preceding claim, comprising a processing system (320), connected with main authorization server (300) to operate the main video server (200).
- 15 8. A method for enabling a user to select a video content via the Internet (140) and for distributing selected video content via a multichannel video broadcasting system for the selected video content to be received on a multichannel receiver and displayed at the user's location on a TV monitor (150) or on a PC (160) provided with a TV display card, the method comprising:
- 20 - selecting, from a plurality of selectable video contents (210,220,230) that are stored on a main video server (200), video contents that are to be displayed immediately or with a delay, in response to user commands transmitted via the Internet (140);
- 25 - supplying selected video contents from the main video server (200) to a multichannel video broadcasting apparatus (250;280,285), for the selected video content to be broadcast on an available channel of the broadcasting apparatus;
- 30 - providing an indication of a channel that is available to broadcast a selected video content immediately or with a delay in correspondence with a user command, said indication being available to the user via the authorization server (300) and the Internet (140); and
- initiating the broadcast of a selected video content on the indicated channel immediately or with a delay in correspondence with said user command.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the video contents are selected from live broadcasts (210), recorded videos (220) and video-on-demand (230).
10. The method of claim 8 or 9, wherein the selected video contents are broadcast on a channel selected from a broad bandwidth with several hundreds of channels.
- 5 11. The method of claim 8, 9 or 10, wherein the selected video contents are broadcast on a channel of a cable TV network (250).
12. The method of claim 8, 9 or 10, wherein the selected video contents are broadcast via a ground transmission station (280) that transmits to a communications satellite (285).
- 10 13. The method of any one of claims 8 to 12, wherein the selection of a channel available to broadcast immediately or with a delay in correspondence with a user command is automated, or is partly automated and assisted by a user command.